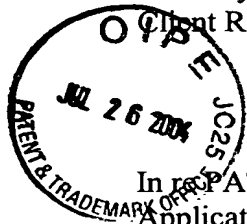


Attorney Docket: 007874-0271790

Client Reference: NI-0005PCTUS



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re: PATENT APPLICATION of: NAKAJIMA

Confirmation Number: 9517

Application No.: 09/630,557

Group Art Unit: 3624

Filed: August 2, 2000

Examiner: Charles R. Kyle

Title: ELECTRONIC SETTLEMENT SYSTEM, SETTLEMENT APPARATUS AND  
TERMINAL

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendments  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**RECEIVED**

JUL 28 2004

**GROUP 3600**

Sir:

In response to the restriction requirement mailed June 24, 2004, Applicant hereby elects Group I, claims 1-26 and 44-49 for examination.


The election is made with traverse for the following reasons. It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of claims 27-41, 42-43, and 50-53 is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one group of claims would necessarily encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining claims. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be performed without serious burden. M.P.E.P. § 803 clearly states that "[i]f the search and examination of the entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on its merits, even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions" (emphasis added). It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to applicants and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

NAKAJIMA -- 09/630,557  
Client/Matter: 007874-0271790

A prompt and favorable action on the merits is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

RILSBURY WINTHROP LLP

  
CAROLINE D. DENNISON *REG NO 38705*

Reg. No. 34494

Tel. No. (703) 905-2047

Fax No. (703) 905-2500

Date: July 26, 2004  
P.O. Box 10500  
McLean, VA 22102  
(703) 905-2000